

2017-06-HFNC-activities-events

Hi everyone

Just a short note to remind you of the following forthcoming events:

- **General Meeting – next Thursday 15 Jun, 7.30 at HIRL**
- **Excursion – Sunday 18 June to the Kanawalla Railway Flora Reserve.** We leave at 9.30 am from the Hamilton Visitor Centre. Otherwise, feel free to arrive informally at our site on Hensley Park Rd (it lies between MacFarlanes Rd and Forts Rd). Those in the convoy will be driving into the reserve from the MacFarlanes Rd end, but you may prefer to park on the cleared metal dump area on Hensley Park Rd at the Forts Rd end. The parking area is opposite our gate into the reserve.

We will be attempting several things on this excursion, which is partly a working B to complete the project funded through the Shire to improve the walking/cycling trail along the 1.5 km reserve:

- Kick off any stones larger than about egg size (anything larger may be difficult to ride over on bikes). The surface has been rolled to push in most of the smaller stones. This task should be easy.
- Some of us will trim off long branch stubs left on trees by contractors. Unfortunately the team doing the grading exceeded the stipulated width of 2.5-3 m width and they removed quite a few branches that should have been left.
- Some may like to remove the wire guards on the banksia and sheoaks at the middle of the reserve (where the reserve narrows) – bring pliers and gloves.
- Some may like to wander over the reserve and chop out small Briar Rose bushes – bring a hatchet if you fancy doing that!
- Depending on the weather I may spot-spray a few weeds such as *Oxalis purpurea* and *Sparaxis bulbifera* that occur at a few places along the eastern edge of the reserve.
- Some may like to hand-weed out the Fumaria ('carrot weed') that has infested the area at the base of a Cherry ballart at the southern end of the old railway loading embankment.
- When we finish the work we will investigate the 2 series of tiles that were laid down about 10 years ago to detect the presence of legless lizards.

We have not visited this reserve as a club for a few years. Members will remember that the removal of 100 large pines and 40 cypress and tree-planting occupied us for several years from 2004-08. This will be a chance to see what has happened there since our last visit.

I hope to see you there, even if only for a short while (we are committed to providing an 'in kind' contribution to this project) – depending on the weather we will at least do the walk along the prepared track.

Cheers

Rod